

# Vedanshi

The part of the sacred knowledge

*Know that both Purusha and Prakriti are beginningless; and know also that all modifications and qualities (gunas) are born of Prakriti*

Chapter 13, Verse 19; Bhagavad Gita

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 10: September 2014

## Significance of Navratri

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## Lafayette Navratri

September 27th @ 5pm

Heymann Park Center,  
1500 S Orange St,  
Lafayette, LA 70501

A Free Event to  
All.....Your tax-free  
donation is most  
welcome....

## Lafayette Navratri

Starting at 5 pm with Puja  
of Shree Lalitha Sahastra-  
naam Kumkuma-rchanam  
performed by SHSK Pooja  
Committee.....followed by  
Maha Prasad  
Dinner.....then will start  
Garba...Aarati...Raas....Da  
ndiya....

## Letter of Support

"there are many more miles  
to go before we sleep. We  
need more people to join with  
us on this journey, and to  
help achieve new milestones  
along the way. More people  
of the Acadiana Indian  
community and beyond to  
take a leap of faith - for the  
sake of faith. "

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## Introduction to Lalitha Sahasranamam

The dhyan sloka of Lalitha  
Sahasranamam consists of  
one thousand names of  
Lalithambigai.  
Lalithambigai is the maya  
part of the Brahman. She  
is the vimarsha form and  
is the cause for illusion or  
duality.

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SANATAN HINDU



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OM TAT SAT ITI

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## Significance of Navratri

Every Indian festival has a reason and significance behind its celebration. It is not only celebrated for fun and enjoyment.

It is the divine power that provides energy for the earth to move around the sun, causing the changes in the outer nature and that this divine power must be thanked for maintaining the correct balance of the universe. Due to the changes in the nature, the bodies and minds of people undergo a considerable change.

Due to climate change & solar influence, the energy level of the body goes up & down. If energy level is up, Satwa increases, positivity increases. On the result of it, human becomes dynamic, enthusiastic, creative & happier. When energy level is down, Tamas increases, negativity increases. So all types of negativity like greed, jealousy, hatred develops in human body.

In the month of Bhadrapada, there is lowest energy. Our saints are so clever. They thought about it & want to do something to keep our energy level up. So they performed Ganapati Puja for first 10 days of Bhadrapada. We worship the divine power to bestow upon all of us enough potent powers to maintain our physical and mental balance. Then



they keep Shradha to remember our ancestors. So we can remember the beautiful memories that we have spent with our grandfather, grandmother & others. When we think about those happy moments, our Satwa goes up, so our energy level goes up.

Then on the first day of Ashwin, they put 9 days of worship to the mother, the source of energy. There is no rakshas like Mahisasura. The real rakshas are our

ego, sorrow, greed, jealousy etc which should be killed from ourselves. The 10 days (including Vijaya Dasami) refers to 10 evils.

- 1) Kaam (Lust), 2) Krodh (Anger) 3) Lobh (Greed)
- 4) Moh (Attachment) 5) Ahankar (Ego) 6) Darr (Fear) 7) Irsha (Jealousy) 8) Jadta (Inertia) 9) Nafrat (Hate) 10) Paschataap (Guilty)

Each day we take commitment to destroy one evil from our selves. On the tenth day, we celebrate Vijaya Dasami, i.e. win over all these negativity.

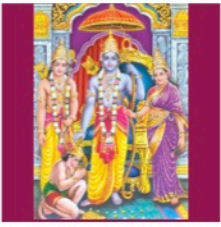
### Reason for doing Religious Works at Night

The saints have given more importance to night. Understanding it scientifically; night is peaceful and quite, tantra-mantra and other supernatural things are in strong position. It is easy to concentrate in the night. Chanting Mantra in a peaceful environment yields auspicious results. Many obstacles of nature are removed. This time may be used for gaining mental power and Yogic powers.

Scientifically, performing things during the day increases the chances of problems in concentrating; just the way radio signals face problems during day time but improve in the night. The sound of the bells and conch kills Germs up-to far-away places. This period is used for Siddhi for fulfilling wishes.

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Sita Ram



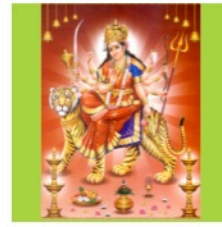
Ganesh



Krishna



Durga



Shiva



# Sanatan Hindu Sanskar Kendra

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## Significance of Navratri

### What is Navratri?

Navratri is a combination of two words. 'Nav' means nine while 'ratri' means night. Therefore, this celebration is literally translated as 'nine nights'.

Navratri is celebrated five times a year. They are **Vasanta Navratri**, **Ashadha Navratri**, **Sharada Navratri**, **Paush Navratri** and **Magha Navratri**. Of these, the Sharada Navratri of the month of Puratashi and the Vasanta Navratri of the Vasanta kala are very important.

1. **Basanta Navratri**: Basanta Navratri, also known as Vasant Navratri, is the festival of nine days dedicated to the nine forms of Shakti (Mother Goddess) in the spring season (March-April). It is also known as Chaitra Navratri. The nine days of festival is also known as Raama Navratri.

2. **Gupta Navratri**: Gupta Navratri, also referred as Ashadha or Gayatri or Shakambhari Navratri, is nine days dedicated to the nine forms of Shakti (Mother Goddess) in the month of Ashadha (June-July). Gupta Navratri is observed during the Ashadha Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of moon).

3. **Sharada Navratri**: This is the most important of the Navratris. It is simply called *Maha Navratri* (the Great Navaratri) and is celebrated in the month of Ashwin. Also known as Sharada Navratri, as it is celebrated during Sharad (beginning of winter, September-October).

4. **Paush Navratri**: Paush Navratri is nine days dedicated to the nine forms of Shakti (Mother Goddess) in the month of Paush (December-January). Paush Navratri is observed during the Paush Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of moon).

5. **Magha Navratri**: Magha Navratri, also referred as Gupta Navratri, is nine days dedicated to the nine forms of Shakti (Mother Goddess) in the month of Magha (January-February). Magha Navratri is

observed during the Magha Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of moon).

**Best Compliments from  
Suresh and Usha  
Patel (Kaplan)**

But popularly Navratri is celebrated twice a year. First Navratri is from Pratipada of Chaitra month to Navami and the second is exactly after six months in Pratipada of Ashwin Shukla Paksha to a day before Vijaydashami. Among the two, Sharada Navratri is given more importance. The celebrations begin on the first day of the month of Ashwin (i.e. Ashwin Shukla Paksha Pratipada) according to the Hindu calendar.

### First three days

The goddess is separated as a spiritual force called Durga also known as Kali in order to destroy all our impurities.

### Second three days

The Mother is adored as a giver of spiritual wealth, Lakshmi, who is considered to have the power of bestowing on her devotees inexhaustible wealth, as she is the goddess of wealth.

### Final three days

The final set of three days is spent in worshipping the goddess of wisdom, Saraswati. In order to have all-round success in life, believers seek the blessings of all three aspects of the divine femininity, hence the nine nights of worship.

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## September Important Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time

**24 Wednesday Navratri Starts**

**27 Saturday Lafayette Navratri**  
(@5:00pm Heymann Park Center, 1500 S Orange St, Lafayette, LA 70501)

**30 Tuesday Saraswati Avahan**

## October Important Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time

**01 Wednesday Saraswati Puja,  
Durga Ashtami**

**03 Friday Dussehra,  
Vijaydashami**

**22 Wednesday Diwali**

For more details please refer [DrikPanchang.com](http://DrikPanchang.com)



## Significance of Navratri

Each of the nine days of Navratri has special significance. Each day is dedicated to a particular Goddess who is worshipped on that day.

### First Day – Shailputri

The first day is dedicated to the Goddess 'Shailputri', the daughter of the Himalayas. She is a form of Shakti, the companion of Lord Shiva. Shailputri literally means the daughter (putri) of the mountains (shaila). Various known as Sati Bhavani, Parvati or Hemavati, the daughter of Hemavana - the king of the Himalayas, she is the first among Navadurgas. Her worship takes place on the first day of Navratri – the nine divine nights. The embodiment of the power of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, she rides a bull and carries a trident and a lotus in her two hands.



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### Second Day – Brahmacharini

She is worshipped on the second day of Navratri and is the second form of Mother Goddess. The name is derivative of the word 'Brahma', which means 'Tapa' or penance. Brahmacharini means one who practices devout austerity. She enlightens us in the magnificent embodiment of Durga with great powers and divine grace. She holds a rosary in her right hand and a water utensil in her left hand. She is blissful and endows happiness, peace, prosperity and grace upon all devotees who worship her. Filled with bliss and happiness, she is the way to emancipation - Moksha.



### Third Day – Chandraghanta

The third day is dedicated to the goddess 'Chandraghanta', the symbolic representation of beauty and bravery, who is worshipped for peace, tranquility and prosperity in life. She has a 'chandra' or half-moon in her forehead in the shape of a 'ghanta' or bell. That is why she is called 'Chandraghanta'. She is charming, has a golden bright complexion and rides a lion. She has ten hands, three eyes and holds weapons in her hands. She is the apostle of bravery and possesses great strength to fight in the battle against demons.



### Fourth Day – Kushmanda

The fourth day is dedicated to the goddess 'Kushmanda', the creator of the entire Universe. The meaning of the name 'Ku-shm-anda' is as follows: 'Ku' = a little; 'ushma' = 'warmth'; 'anda' = 'the cosmic egg'. So she is considered the creator of the universe. The universe was no more than a void full of darkness, until her light spreads in all directions like rays from the sun. Often she is depicted as having eight or ten hands. She holds weapons, glitter, rosary, etc., in her hands, and she rides a lion.



### Fifth Day - Skand Mata



The fifth day is dedicated to the Goddess 'Skand Mata', the mother of the chief commander of the Gods army, the Skanda or Lord Kartikeya. She is accompanied by the Lord Skanda in his infant form. Skand Mata has four arms and three eyes, holds the infant Skanda in her right upper arm and a lotus in her right hand which is slightly raised upwards. The left arm is in pose to grant boons with grace and in left hand which is raised also holds a lotus. She has a bright complexion and often depicted as seated on a lotus.

### Sixth Day - Katyayani

The sixth day is dedicated to the goddess 'Katyayani' with three eyes and four hands. The legend behind her name goes thus: Once upon a time, there was a great sage called Kata, who had a son named Katya. Kata was very famous and renowned in the lineage of saints. He underwent long austerities and penance in order to receive the grace of the Mother Goddess. He wished to have a daughter in the form of a goddess. According to his wish and desire the Mother Goddess granted his request. Katyayani was born to Kata as an avatar of Durga.



### Seventh Day – Kaalratri

The seventh day is dedicated to the Goddess 'Kaalratri', meant to make the devotees fearless. This is the seventh form of Mother Durga and is worshipped on the seventh day of Navratri. She has a dark complexion, disheveled hair and a fearlessness posture. A necklace flashing lightning

adorns her neck. She has three eyes that shine bright and terrible flames emanate from her breath. Her vehicle is the donkey. Her raised right hand always seems to grant boons to all worshippers and her right lower hand is in the pose of allaying fears. Her left upper hand holds a thorn-like weapon, made of iron and there is a dragger in the lower left hand. She is black like Goddess Kali and her gesture of protection assures us of freedom from fear and troubles. So she is also known as 'Shubhamkari' – one who does good things.



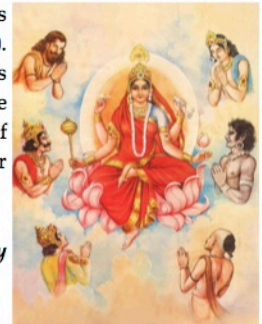
### Eighth Day - Maha Gauri

The eighth day is dedicated to the Mata Rani or 'Maha Gauri' representing calmness and exhibits wisdom. She is worshipped on the eighth day of Navratri. Her power is unailing and instantly fruitful. As a result of her worship, all sins of past, present and future gets washed away and devotees get purified in all aspects of life. Maha Gauri is intelligent, peaceful and calm. Due to her long austerities in the deep forests of the Himalayas, she developed a dark complexion. When Lord Shiva cleaned her with the water of the Ganges, her body regained its beauty and she came to be known as Maha Gauri, which mean extremely white. She wears white clothes, has four arms, and rides on a bull. Her right hand is in the pose of allaying fear and her right lower hand holds a trident. The left upper hand holds a 'damaru' (a small rattle drum) and the lower one is in the pose of granting boons to her devotees.



### Ninth Day – Siddhidatri

Siddhidatri is the ninth form of Goddess. She is worshipped on the ninth day of Navratri. Siddhidatri has supernatural healing powers. She has four arms and she is always in a blissful happy enchanting pose. She rides on the lion as her vehicle. She blesses all Gods, saints, yogis, tantrics and all devotees as a manifestation of the Mother Goddess. In 'Devi Bhagvata Purana' it is mentioned that Lord Shiva worshipped her and was blessed with all Siddhis (supernatural powers). By her blessings his half body became female and other half body male in the avatar of Ardhnarishvara.



- by Ajita Satpathy